

In the Claims

Kindly amend claims 1, 17, 19, 22 and 32 and add new claim 38 as shown in the following listing of the entire claims in the application.

What is claimed:

1. (currently amended) A carrying apparatus comprising:
 - a changing area comprising a front surface, a back surface, a plurality of sides, and a first hinge point and a second hinge point for allowing different compartments to pivot toward and away from each other;
 - a storage area having a plurality of sides and attached at one of the plurality of sides to the changing area along the first hinge point of the changing area and positioned against the back surface of the changing area; and
 - a base area having a bottom surface and a carrying surface, and a plurality of sides, the base area attached at one of the plurality of sides to the changing area along the second hinge point of the changing area;

wherein the carrying apparatus is positioned on the ground by folding the base area away from the changing area at the second hinge point with the base area bottom surface and the changing area front surface against the ground, and the changing area is exposed by pivoting the storage area about the first hinge point to be positioned against the carrying surface of the base area, and wherein the carrying apparatus is removed from the ground by raising the side of the storage changing area having the first and second hinge point upward such that the bottom surface of the base area pivots at the second hinge point to lay against the front of the changing area and the storage area pivots about the first hinge point to lay against the back side of the changing area.
2. (original) The carrying apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first and second hinge points are disposed parallel to each other along one of the plurality of sides of the changing area.
3. (original) The carrying apparatus of claim 1, the base area further comprising:
 - a carrying means attached to the carrying surface.
4. (original) The carrying apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a tread for providing stability disposed along the back side of the changing area.

5. (original) The carrying apparatus of claim 1, the changing area further comprising a privacy shield.
6. (original) The carrying apparatus of claim 5, wherein the privacy shield is attached to the changing area.
7. (original) The carrying apparatus of claim 1, the storage area further comprising at least one seal for securing items inside the storage area.
8. (original) The carrying apparatus of claim 7, wherein the seal is a zipper extending along a substantial amount of the plurality of sides.
9. (original) The carrying apparatus of claim 1, the storage area further comprising an inside, an outside, a seal disposed on the inside of the storage area and a seal disposed on the outside of the storage area.
10. (original) The carrying apparatus of claim 9, wherein the seals are zippers extending along a substantial amount of the inside and the outside of the storage area.
11. (original) The carrying apparatus of claim 1, wherein the changing area is recessed.
12. (original) The carrying apparatus of claim 11, the changing area further comprising a flap and a fastening device for opening the flap.
13. (original) The carrying apparatus of claim 1 further comprising at least one seal disposed between the changing area and the storage area allowing the user to store dirty or wet clothes in the changing area.
14. (original) The carrying apparatus of claim 13, wherein the seal is waterproof.
15. (original) The carrying apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a pocket.

16. (original) The carrying apparatus of claim 1, the changing area further comprising a covering attached to the back surface of the changing area for providing protection from soil.

17. (currently amended) The carrying apparatus of claim 16, wherein the covering is made from a material selected from the group consisting of: paper, plastic, Tyvek®, cloth, canvas, sponge, towel material, cotton, or water-proof nylon.

18. (original) The carrying apparatus of claim 1, wherein the changing area is made from a material that is water-proof or water resistant and comfortable to stand or sit in.

19. (currently amended) The carrying apparatus of claim 18, wherein the changing area material is selected from the group consisting of: ~~heavy nylon coated with Gore Tex®~~, ~~heavy nylon coated with Sympa Tex®~~, or coated nylon and sponge rubber.

20. (original) The carrying apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a closure means for securing the carrying apparatus in a closed position.

21. (original) The carrying apparatus of claim 1, wherein the carrying apparatus is made from a washable, stain-resistant material.

22. (currently amended) The carrying apparatus of claim 21, wherein the carrying apparatus material is selected from the group consisting of: coated nylon, ~~Teflon® fabric~~, cotton, sponge, towel fabric, antibacterial fabric, or backed foam fabric.

23. (withdrawn) A clean carry case comprising:

- a storage area;
- a foldable mat comprising first, second, and third panels, each having a bottom surface and a top surface,
- a first hinge attaching the first panel to a storage area;
- a second hinge attaching the second panel to the first panel;

a third hinge attaching the third panel to the second panel; and
a clean area comprising the bottom surface of the third panel and the top surface
of the second panel;

wherein the mat is opened by positioning the bottom surfaces of the first and
second panels against a ground surface, pivoting the third panel about the third hinge
placing the top surface of the third panel against the top surface of the first panel, and
the clean area is folded by pivoting the third panel about the third hinge positioning
the bottom surface of the third panel against the top surface of the second panel,
pivoting the first panel about the first hinge positioning the top surface of the first
panel against the carrying case and the bottom of the second panel against the bottom
of the first panel.

24. (withdrawn) The clean carry case of claim 23, wherein the clean carry case is made
from a washable, stain-resistant material.

25. (withdrawn) The clean carry case of claim 23 further comprising a sealable flap for
providing access to the storage area.

26. (withdrawn) The clean carry case of claim 23 further comprising a second access
point.

27. (withdrawn) The clean carry case of claim 26 wherein the second access point is
selected from the group consisting of a zipper, magnets, snaps, or Velcro.

28. (withdrawn) The clean carry case of claim 23 further comprising a detachment
means for detaching the mat from the carrying apparatus.

29. (withdrawn) The clean carry case of claim 23 wherein the second hinge and the
third hinge are merged into one hinge.

30. (withdrawn) The clean carry case of claim 23 further comprising at least one bumper for preventing a baby from rolling.
31. (withdrawn) The clean carry case of claim 23 further comprising a retaining strap for preventing a baby from rolling.
32. (currently amended) A carrying case for containing dirty surfaces comprising a plurality of compartments; and at least one hinged point connecting the plurality of compartments; wherein the compartments pivot at the at least one hinge point away from each other during use and towards each other after use to contain dirty surfaces such that the outside surfaces of the carrying case, including shoulder straps and handles are always clean.
33. (original) The carrying case of claim 32, the hinged point further comprising openings in each of the plurality of compartments and a joining device extending through each opening.
34. (original) The carrying case of claim 32, the hinged point further comprising a seam, and the plurality of compartments each further comprising a tab sewn into the seam.
35. (original) The carrying case of claim 32, the plurality of compartments comprising a base area, a storage area, and a changing area.
36. (original) The carrying case of claim 32 further comprising a closure means for securing the carrying case in a closed position.
37. (withdrawn) An improved carrying case, the improvement comprising:
A foldable mat detachably connected to the case comprising a plurality of panels connected at a plurality of hinges wherein the panels fold to contain a dirty surface.

38. (new) The carrying apparatus of claim 1, wherein the plurality of sides are connected by a single hinge joint.